

To the Chairs, Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to advocate for an increase in the state school fund for the next biennium. While the recommended amount of 9.1 billion does appear to be an increase in funding over the current 9.0 billion, if a closer look is taken, it is in fact a decrease for the upcoming school year. This is because in the current year we are receiving 51% of the allocation for the biennium. For next year we would receive 49% of the allocation for the next biennium. The difference in these two amounts represents a decrease for our district of 2.85%. In dollars it is around the \$130,000 figure. This would be a cut to our CSL and would require us to make some hard decisions going forward. I urge you to reconsider and increase the funding to a minimum of 9.3 billion or higher. Now is not the time to fund at a minimum level. It is a time to fund at a level that allows districts like ours to be assured, financially, that moving into the unknown of the fall we have the necessary resources to continue moving forward for all students.

Thank you!